

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 EB-07 /054 W

----- 089026

O 070940Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4296

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

SECDEF

S E C R E T JIDDA 2534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR

REF: (A) STATE 81654, (B) STATE 83499, (C) SANA 1144,
(D) SECDEF 070031Z APR 76 (SPECAT EXCLUSIVE 5478)

1. DUE TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE YAR, THE "AIDE MEMOIRE" CONTAINED REF A WAS EMBODIED IN A LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN AS THE POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT. THE OTHER POINTS OF REF A WERE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE LETTER. THE LETTER WAS DISPATCHED TO RIYADH APRIL 6 AND IMMEDIATELY DELIVERED, PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF REFTEL B, TO SULTAN'S OFFICE FOR HIS URGENT ATTENTION.

2. WE ARE INFORMED THROUGH THE MINDEF PROJECT OFFICER FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR COL. DHAHIRI, THAT THE SAG HAS ALREADY MADE THE DECISION THAT ARMS DELIVERIES FROM THE US SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO HODEIDA. ASSURANCES GIVEN AT THE TIME OF THE VISIT OF A/ASD/ISA JORDAN AND GENERAL FISH TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SAG WOULD BE ABLE TO HALT DELIVERIES UNDER THE LOA'S AT ANY TIME WERE PROBABLY INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION. THE LETTER WHICH HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO PRINCE SULTAN WILL SERVE AS
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FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS. THE LOA'S WHICH ARRIVED BY

COURIER WERE ALSO DELIVERED APRIL 6.

3. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY SANA THAT IT IS PROBABLY UNNECESSARY TO CONFIRM THE FACT OF SAUDI CONTROL OVER DELIVERIES TO THE YARG. THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE AWARE THAT HE WHO PAYS THE PIPER CALLS THE TUNE. WE ARE NOT UNDULY CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT SULTAN WILL PERMIT THIS ISSUE TO SPOIL THE CLIMATE OF HIS VISIT TO SANA. HE IS THE LEAST SUBTLE OF THE SAUDI LEADERS WITH A ROLE IN MAKING POLICY TOWARDS THE YAR AND FREQUENTLY COMES ACROSS AS ABRASIVE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTS HIS VISIT TO THE YAR TO BE A SUCCESS AND THAT HE WILL ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE.
PORTER

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NNN

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